

May 2011

## News from Madison County Commission District 6

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### Upcoming Events

Northwest Huntsville Senior  
Wellness Center Groundbreaking  
Ceremony  
June 9, 2011  
11:00 am

### Greetings!

No one could have predicted that the horrific storms that took place on April 27, 2011 would cause so much devastation. From this entire experience, I am coming to learn and appreciate the value of diverse modes of communication. When tragedy strikes, it is absolutely necessary that we communicate effectively with one another in order to efficiently connect needs to resources. Facebook and twitter played critical roles allowing me to deliver timely messages after the storm regarding assistance and recovery initiatives taking place across the county. It is my goal to communicate through these mediums not just in times of crisis, but also in times of great weather and prosperity. I hope you enjoy this edition of our newsletter and please encourage others to join and become plugged into current projects and initiatives underway in District 6!

Yours in Service,  
Bob

Looking to Serve Alabama?

There are volunteer reception centers located around the state. For a list of these locations visit [www.servealabama.gov](http://www.servealabama.gov).

[Join Our Mailing List!](#)

### District 6 Disaster Relief

On April 27, 2011 powerful storms rocked the Tennessee Valley. The deadly system ripped through Alabama, Arkansas, Kentucky, Mississippi, Missouri, Tennessee Georgia and Oklahoma



Commissioner Bob Harrison, District 6 employees, and City Official and office discussing the best ways to assist in recovery

leaving a trail of destruction. The National Weather Service's Storm Prediction Center in Norman, Okla., said it received 137 tornado reports around the region, including 66 in Alabama and 38 in Mississippi. Our deepest condolences

and sympathy go out to those that lost loved ones during the storms.

President Barack Obama and the White House declared a Federal State of Emergency in Alabama and federal resources are readily available. Preliminary estimates and figures suggest that the storms cost local Madison County governments and agencies \$7 million to \$10 million, including \$4.4 million to restore electrical service.

Madison County District 6 became heavily involved in massive recovery efforts to provide power and resources to critical community services. Before the second storm hit, Madison County Commission District 6 work crews cleared debris to allow first responders to arrive and assess storm damage in the Harvest/ Monrovia community. This effort was led by District 6 General Foreman, Willie McCrary, with the assistance of The Madison County Works Department Bridge Crew. In addition, District 6 supplied fuel to essential personnel at Huntsville and Crestwood Hospitals. Emergency generators and fuel were also provided to Alabama A&M University. Radio stations WJAB and WDJL in Huntsville were able to broadcast live emergency and recovery information as a result of the generators provided by Madison County District 6.

Because the storms took out several major power transformers, many North Alabamians were left to find alternative energy sources. The Commission staff and dozens of volunteers fired up charcoal grills to meet the needs of those without the capacity to cook meals during the power outage. The Commissioner and his staff served over 3,500 hot plates and emergency food boxes in the days following the storms.

Madison County Commission District 6 also partnered with the Adventist Community Service Disaster Response Team to set up a service facility to offer assistance to area families. Since the inception of this relief effort, the facility has serviced 3,000 families in Madison County. This is an extraordinary effort led by Mr. Vernon Giles, area coordinator. The Adventist Disaster Service **facility is located at 3223 Hi-Lo Circle, Huntsville AL 35811**. Community donations have flourished since its opening. Area families effected by the storms can find household goods, food, clothing and critical sanitary items. Anyone needing relief services can visit the facility Monday - Friday between the hours of 8:00 am - 6:00 pm.

The facility is still accepting donations for those able to give. There is a **GREAT** need for paper products, paper



towels, toilet tissue, plates, cups, napkins and toiletries. **NEW** underwear or new clothes. All donations are tax deductible. For more information contact Vernon Giles at (256) 755-1240.

Lastly, Madison County Commission District 6 would like to extend special thanks to the Boeing Corporation and Vice President Senior Executive, Tony Jones. The Boeing Corporation donated over 1000 pieces of new clothing to aide in Madison County District 6 recovery efforts.

## Storm Relief and Benefit Jam Session

On May 8, 2011 The Commissioner teamed up with Kelly O'Neal to host a Sunday Jazz encounter at Focus Martini Bar and Grill in Huntsville Alabama. All proceeds from this event went to the Northwest Huntsville Community Service Organization to assist families effected by the deadly April tornados.



Commissioner Harrison Performs with the Kayo Band Storm Relief Benefit and Jam Session at Focus Grill

Kelley O'Neal is an renowned saxophonist and studio musician. He is a former member of two Grammy Award winning musical groups. A native of Huntsville, Alabama, he now resides in Atlanta, Georgia. In the aftermath of the deadly storms, the musician wanted to reach out and help the community by using his God given musical talents. The event also featured other artist who took part in offering musical relief .Commissioner Harrison surprised the audience with his rendition of **Larry Graham's One in a Million**. "In times of crisis we have to pull together.God has given us all gifts to use to edify and build up his Kingdom." said the Commissioner.

The fundraiser was a huge success with over \$800 in funds raised for disaster relief efforts. Special thanks to everyone who came out to show support for the Northwest Huntsville Community Service Organization . The organization is a non -profit 501-C3 subsidiary of Madison County Commission District 6. This organization works to administer programs that address educational and social service needs of the

Northwest Huntsville Community. If you would like find out how to donate to this organization, please contact Ben Cotton at (256) 851-7242.

## **Northwest Huntsville Senior Wellness Center Groundbreaking**

The Groundbreaking ceremony for the Northwest Huntsville senior Wellness Center is scheduled to take place on June 9, 2011 at 11:00 am .

This event was postponed due to the severe nature of the storms and massive relief efforts underway in Madison County. The Madison County District 6 team focused all energies to disaster relief efforts.



Architect Rendering- Goodwyn, Mills, and Cawood.

The Commissioner is preparing to construct a 20,000 square ft. state of the art Senior Wellness Center located in the Cedar Point Community of Northwest Huntsville. In 2010, District 6 received matching funds and a low interest rate Build American Bond allocation as a result of The Community Reinvestment Act of 2010 signed into law by President Barack Obama. Construction is set to begin in early June.

More details for this event are forthcoming. For the most up to date information, join the conversation and follow the Commissioner on twitter @BHARRISOND6. Click here to visit the [Commissioner's Facebook Fan Page!](#)

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